



Native vegetation policy

for Western Australia

Implementation roadmap

May 2022

Department of Water and Environmental Regulation

Prime House, 8 Davidson Terrace
Joondalup Western Australia 6027

Telephone +61 8 6364 7000
Facsimile +61 8 6364 7001
National Relay Service 13 36 77

dwer.wa.gov.au

© Government of Western Australia
May 2022
Updated June 2025

FIRST 115967

This work is copyright. You may download, display, print and reproduce this material in unaltered form only (retaining this notice) for your personal, non-commercial use or use within your organisation. Apart from any use as permitted under the *Copyright Act 1968*, all other rights are reserved. Requests and inquiries concerning reproduction and rights should be addressed to the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation.

Disclaimer

This document has been published by the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation. Any representation, statement, opinion or advice expressed or implied in this publication is made in good faith and on the basis that the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation and its employees are not liable for any damage or loss whatsoever which may occur as a result of action taken or not taken, as the case may be in respect of any representation, statement, opinion or advice referred to herein. Professional advice should be obtained before applying the information contained in this document to particular circumstances.

The Department of Water and Environmental Regulation was established by the Government of Western Australia on 1 July 2017. It is a result of the amalgamation of the Department of Environment Regulation, Department of Water and the Office of the Environmental Protection Authority. This publication may contain references to previous government departments and programs.

Please email the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation to clarify any specific information.

This publication is available on our website or for those with special needs it can be made available in alternative formats such as audio, large print, or Braille.

21220201

Contents

Overview of the implementation roadmap	5
Strategy 1: Policy-making – state and regional	6
Strategy 2: Contemporary systems and practice	8
Strategy 3: Build, share and use knowledge	9
Strategy 4: Coordination and governance	10
Acronyms	11

Overview of the implementation roadmap

This implementation roadmap sets out the tangible actions that the State Government will take in implementing the *Native vegetation policy for Western Australia* over the four years 2022 to 2026.

It is to be read in conjunction with the *Native vegetation policy for Western Australia*, including its terminology and definitions therein.

Monitoring and reporting on progress

The lead agency for policy implementation, the Department of Water and Environmental Regulation (DWER), will evaluate and report on the roadmap's progress and outcomes each year. To support DWER's public reporting, agencies will report on their progress against roadmap actions via a committee of agencies' Directors General.

In scoping and reporting on each roadmap action, agencies will articulate the action's success measures, reflecting how the action contributes to one or more of the policy outcomes.

Lead and partner agencies

Lead agencies are accountable for delivery of the actions. Partner agencies have committed to supporting delivery of the actions. The partner agency listings are not exclusive; additional agencies not listed may be involved in relevant roadmap actions as appropriate.

Role of sectors other than state agencies

The *Native vegetation policy for Western Australia* acknowledges the fundamental role of stakeholders across all sectors in contributing to the policy's outcomes. This will guide lead agencies when designing and delivering the actions. Each action will involve stakeholder mapping and engagement planning as part of project design, so that relevant stakeholders are involved in shaping and/or delivering the actions.

The types of stakeholders involved will include, but are not limited to:

- local government authorities and other sector representatives
- Aboriginal organisations, including Prescribed Bodies Corporate
- natural resource management, catchment and local bushland groups
- conservation groups
- industry and business
- peak bodies
- Regional Development Commissions.

Strategy 1: Policy-making – state and regional

With the right statewide and regional policy settings, the State Government can better enable all sectors to contribute to a net gain in native vegetation and landscape-scale conservation and restoration. Regional planning for native vegetation will clarify native vegetation objectives and priorities, supporting business certainty and ensuring individual decisions count towards strategic goals such as connectivity and resilience.

Action	Lead Partners	End
Statewide policy settings		
1.1 Policy framework review Evaluate efficacy of existing legislative and policy provisions for native vegetation strategic planning and protection. Map the interrelationships between existing policy frameworks for regulation, land management, land planning and funding.	DWER DBCA, DMIRS, DPIRD, DPLH	2022
1.2 Environmental offsets: strategic outcomes (a) Undertake a broad, strategic and economic evaluation of environmental offsets and use the outcomes to inform 1.3(b).	DWER	2023
(b) Improve the environmental offsets framework in line with recommendations of the WA environmental offsets framework review .	DWER	2026
1.3 Policy options to support net gain (a) Undertake an economic and policy analysis, assessing how existing policy instruments are interacting to influence choices to clear, conserve or restore, including motivations and barriers.	DWER	2023
(b) Develop policy reform options to better incentivise conservation and restoration, support a net gain in native vegetation and build the restoration economy.	DWER DBCA, DPIRD	2024
Regional planning for native vegetation – framework		
1.4 Regional planning prioritisation and scoping Analyse issues and consult to prioritise regions or matters to address through regional planning.	DWER DBCA, DMIRS, DPIRD, DPC, DPLH	2022
<u>General steps:</u> (i) Project planning to define primary decision-making pathways, policy-making model(s), lead agency, interim spatial boundaries, requirements for a strategic offsets plan, stakeholder engagement approach and outputs.	per region	2022–2026
(ii) Consult on, develop and publish outputs as defined in (i), e.g. policies, plans, maps and/or guidance.	defined in (i)	
(iii) Implement outputs from (ii) through implementation pathways, updating documents, processes and systems as appropriate (see 2.1b).	defined in (i)	
(iv) Establish monitoring and evaluation framework for policy positions in (ii), supported by Strategy 3 actions.	defined in (i)	

Regional planning – Wheatbelt			
1.5	(a) Wheatbelt native vegetation mapping Invest in Wheatbelt native vegetation mapping to support strategy development.	DWER DBCA	2023
	(b) Wheatbelt roadside vegetation interagency group Strategic, coordinated, whole-of-government solutions for managing roadside vegetation.	DWER RSC, DoT, MRWA, DBCA, DPIRD	2022–26
	(c) Wheatbelt restoration plan Spatial concept and guidance to coordinate public and private sector investment in restoration, revegetation and conservation. Includes a strategic offsets plan.	DPIRD DBCA, DWER	2023
	(d) Wheatbelt native vegetation strategy Whole-of-government strategy for a net gain in extent and condition, coordinating restoration funding (including offsets), conservation, roadside management and regulation.	DWER DBCA, DPIRD, DPLH, MRWA	2026
Regional planning – South West forests			
1.6	Silviculture interagency group Complement the Forest Management Plan through improved coordination of mechanisms for managing South West forests and woodlands (including thinning).	DWER DBCA, DFES, FPC, DPLH	2022–26

South West forests and woodlands: For this roadmap, South West forests and woodlands means native forests and woodlands within the Jarrah Forest bioregion (JAF01, JAF02) and the Warren bioregion (WAR01) as defined in the [Interim Biogeographic Regionalisation for Australia, version 7](#), excluding the area defined in the policy as the Wheatbelt. These definitions will be further refined through regional planning.

Thinning: An operation where trees are selectively removed within a defined forest area (stand of trees) to achieve a specific silvicultural objective.

Strategy 2: Contemporary systems and practice

Practice adjustments achieved through these actions will improve the spatial capture and collation of decisions that affect native vegetation, and their transparency. The information they generate will improve our understanding of the pressures affecting native vegetation, supporting informed decisions and policy-making.

Action	Lead	End
	Partners	
2.1 (a) Progressively improve the transparency of regulatory decisions affecting native vegetation, publishing where appropriate.	DWER, DBCA, DMIRS, DPLH/WAPC, DPIRD	2022–ongoing
(b) Transparently assess regulated proposals against regional planning outputs (see 1.4(iii), 1.5 and 1.6).	DWER, DBCA, DMIRS, DPLH/WAPC	2026–ongoing
2.2 Collate decisions affecting the condition or extent of native vegetation in spatial datasets, using common data standards (staged). Includes regulatory authorisations to impact; planned land management activities; funding for revegetation or restoration.	DWER, DBCA, DFES, DMIRS, DPLH, DPIRD	2022–ongoing
2.3 Identify and address legislative and other barriers to data capture or sharing, as appropriate and in line with the whole-of-government Privacy and Responsible Information Sharing initiative.	DWER DBCA, DMIRS, DPIRD, DPLH	2022–26
Digital systems		
2.4 (a) Progress the Environment Online digital portal and assessment system for environmental and water regulation, including links to the Biodiversity Information Office 2.4(b) as appropriate.	DWER	2022–ongoing
(b) Progress the work of the Biodiversity Information Office to improve the aggregation and accessibility of biodiversity data.	DBCA	2022–ongoing
(c) Coordinate improved data practice in line with whole-of-government digital transformation policies . Build on practice change through 2.2, 2.4(a) and 2.4(b) to prepare for a single publicly-accessible system in the future.	DWER DBCA, DMIRS, DPIRD, DPLH	2022–26
Regulatory business improvement		
2.5 Review and improve systems, policy and processes for clearing permits , including compliance and enforcement.	DWER DMIRS	2022–ongoing
2.6 Support initiatives to improve the ecological condition of the rangelands, leveraging pastoral diversification and the pastoral purposes framework .	PLB/DPLH DPIRD	2022–ongoing

Strategy 3: Build, share and use knowledge

Informed decisions and policy-making relies on reliable and accessible information on native vegetation status and trends. We will collaborate across sectors and jurisdictions during scoping and design of mapping and monitoring products, to make sure we are leveraging and complementing other relevant remote sensing and systems investments.

Action		Lead	End
		Partners	
3.1	WA native vegetation extent dataset (WAVE) (a) New dataset and monitoring system: semi-automated, regularly updated statewide dataset, leveraging remote sensing and machine learning. Includes publicly available satellite products for multiple purposes, such as tracking clearing over time.	DWER DBCA, Landgate, DPIRD, DPLH, DFES, DMIRS	2022– ongoing
	(b) Use 3.1(a) to improve statistics on proportion of vegetation type remaining, to support cumulative impact assessment.	DWER DBCA	2024– ongoing
Native vegetation condition			
3.2	(a) Support land managers' use of the Pastoral Remote Sensing application for monitoring the pastoral condition of rangelands.	DPIRD	2022– ongoing
	(b) Assess feasibility and identify steps for building on 3.2(a) to monitor ecological condition across the state.	DWER DPIRD, DBCA	2023
Native vegetation biodiversity and type			
3.3	(a) Expand capture of flora survey data for collation in the Index of Biodiversity Surveys for Assessment .	DWER DMIRS	2022– ongoing
	(b) Investigate how aggregated biodiversity survey datasets collected through the Biodiversity Information Office could inform new native vegetation type mapping (see 2.4(b)).	DBCA DWER	2024

Strategy 4: Coordination and governance

Effective coordination and governance will ensure the roadmap's actions contribute to the policy outcomes and that we report transparently on our progress.

	Action	Lead Partners	Timing
	Interagency coordination and advice (statewide)		
4.1	Roadside vegetation advice Establish new arrangements to advise the Minister for Environment on roadside vegetation management, including a new advisory group under section 25 of the <i>Environmental Protection Act 1986</i> .	DWER	2022–ongoing
4.2	Aboriginal involvement in land management Plan for Aboriginal involvement in land management through existing and future initiatives, including the Aboriginal Ranger Program , Plan for Our Parks and the Bushfire Centre of Excellence .	DBCA, DFES	2022–26
4.3	Bushfire mitigation Enhance the effectiveness of bushfire mitigation activities across the state to reduce the risk of bushfire to the community and the environment.	DBCA, DFES	2022–26
4.4	Native vegetation and tourism Leverage Western Australia’s iconic vegetation to create regional jobs in tourism.	JTSI DBCA	2022–26
4.5	Urban forests and bushland Build on existing strategies to protect and enhance urban forests and bushland, including the State Government’s Swan Canning Riverpark Urban Forest Program and Better Urban Forest Planning .	DBCA, DPLH	2022–26
	Policy governance		
4.6	Annual public reporting on the progress of roadmap actions, including evaluation of the actions and review of the roadmap each year.	DWER SOG	2022–26
4.7	Evaluate the effectiveness of the policy and the roadmap in delivering policy outcomes.	DWER SOG	2026

Annual Progress Reports

The [Year one Progress report](#) provides an update on the first year of roadmap implementation, including evaluations of key actions and a review of the roadmap.

Acronyms

Acronym	Abbreviation for:
DBCA	Department of Biodiversity, Conservation and Attractions
DFES	Department of Fire and Emergency Services
DoT	Department of Transport
DMIRS	Department of Mines, Industry Regulation and Safety
DPC	Department of the Premier and Cabinet
DPIRD	Department of Primary Industries and Regional Development
DPLH	Department of Planning, Lands and Heritage
DWER	Department of Water and Environmental Regulation
FPC	Forestry Products Commission of Western Australia
JTSI	Department of Jobs, Tourism, Science and Innovation
MRWA	Main Roads Western Australia
PLB	Pastoral Lands Board
RSC	Road Safety Commission
SOG	Senior Officers' Group for overseeing implementation of the Native vegetation policy
WAPC	Western Australian Planning Commission



**Department of Water and Environmental
Regulation**

8 Davidson Terrace
JOONDALUP WA 6027

Locked Bag 10
Joondalup DC
JOONDALUP WA 6919

Phone: +61 8 6364 7000
Fax: +61 8 6364 7001

For further information

Telephone: (08) 6364 7000
Email: nvs@dwer.wa.gov.au